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RYE BROOK

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The Blind Brook High School Mock Trial team and coaches with their trophy after upsetting Rye Neck for the county championship at the Westchester County Courthouse on Apr. 11. From left, coach Joel Hecker, freshman Alex Nadasi, freshman Jacob Zeitlin, senior Karan Das, sophomore Sara Dashow, sophomore Margaux Klein,

freshman Josh Rossen, junior Justin Cray, senior Jason Adler, junior Jason Rosenberg, freshman Ethan Hochberg, senior Alex Lubkin, **junior Josephine Yalovitser**, sophomore Adam Riesenfeld, senior Eric Nadasi, coach Rita Gianfrancesco, sophomore Katie Adler, junior Will Saunders and coach Kenneth Finder.

BBHS mock trial team is the best in Westchester

Loses in close match to Nyack at regionals

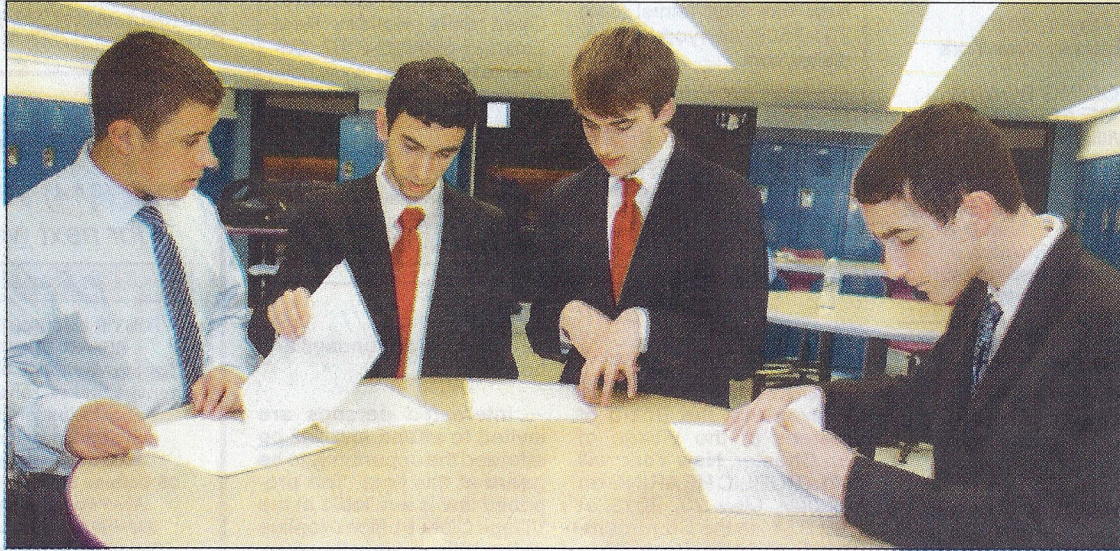
By CLAIRE K. RACINE

Blind Brook High School students know how to argue and they have the trophy to prove it.

The Blind Brook Mock Trial team became the Westchester County champions and made it all the way to the regional competition on Saturday, Apr. 27. The team lost the regional title to Nyack High School, who won the state competition last year, after an extremely close battle at Marist College in Poughkeepsie.

"It was a neck-and-neck match though, so we went out with a bang," said team co-captain Jason Adler. Although the judges did not release the scores, they did say that both were very high-scoring teams. In many cases the audience can see which way it is going to go, but at regionals it was too close to tell and there was no clear favorite, Adler said. "It was back and forth. It was a very strong competition."

Each year the students have to prepare both sides of a new case.



Blind Brook High School Mock Trial team members Ethan Hochberg (left), Jason Rosenberg, Justin Cray and Alex Nadasi prepare for their county championship trial against Rye Neck High School.

"The case is about a student who is suing a computer science university for advertising after going to their two-year program and then claiming he did not get all that was advertised to him," Adler said.

Adler, who delivered the closing arguments, chalks up the loss to the different styles the two teams had and the fact that on that day, those judges preferred the other team's style to Blind

Brook's.

"It wasn't that we lost. It was that the other team happened to win that day because that's how the judges were leaning," he said.

As a senior, this was Adler's last competition. While he is sad the season is over, he is also happy with how the 16-member team performed, beating out Scarsdale, Harrison, Briarcliff, Byram Hills and Irvington high schools and then Rye Neck at the county level.

Last year Rye Neck beat Blind Brook to secure the Westchester County title and Adler was glad to be able to reclaim it this year before heading to regionals.

"In regionals we faced a tough team," said Jason Rosenberg, who delivered the opening argument for the plaintiff's side and also handled direct and cross examination for the plaintiff. "I think we did very well then and throughout the year."

Rosenberg, the junior captain this year, will be taking over leadership of the team next year.

"I was pretty pleased with how everything went this year. I really liked how everybody, even the freshmen, who it's their first time, were able to step up," he said. "I think just continuing that hard work and good ethic will help the team do well in future years."

While Adler is still considering law as a possible direction, Rosenberg has already ruled out that possibility. Rather than becoming a lawyer, Rosenberg plans to go into science eventually. That being said, he enjoys the time he has had on the mock trial team and will have again next year.

"It's a unique club in the school because there's an unrivaled level of camaraderie," he said. His fellow students are intelligent, motivated to succeed and help each other to do the best they can and he is glad to try out being an attorney, especially because he does not plan to pursue it. "It's been a great experience."

The Rye Brook Board of Trustees will be recognizing the students' achievements at the village board meeting on Tuesday, May 14.